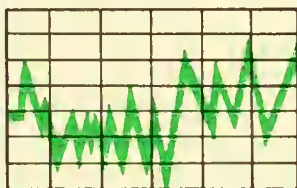
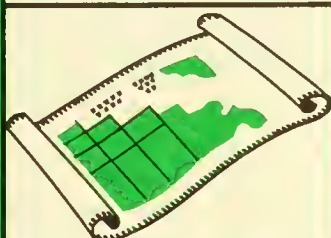


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Montana State Library



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INFORMATION FOR ACTION

Services of The

**Division of Research and
Information Systems**

Department of Community Affairs
State of Montana
Spring, 1975

Q

Can you use detailed figures from the Censuses of Population, Housing, Agriculture, and Governments, for

Your state?

Your county?

Any local Enumeration Districts?

Q

Can you obtain statistics presented in map form?

Can you make use of computer-printed state maps of any statistical information reported by county?

Q

Are you interested in federal grants to Montana,

By area or county?

By type of grant?

By organization?

Q

Do you need quick access to any item or phrase in the Montana code of laws?

Or all the sections pertaining to any one subject, or that use a particular word or phrase?

Q

Can you use maps computer-drawn to any scale, of counties or areas, showing:

Highways?

Forest Lands?

Federal or state-owned land, or Indian reservations?

Land use, and in some cases land ownership, soils and vegetation?

Q

Do you need subject-matter reference files on any of hundreds of state, federal, or local reports?

Would you like to study a profile of your county with information in more than 40 tables on social, economic, and physical matters?

A

These and many other services are offered by the Division of Research and Information Systems, of the Montana Department of Community Affairs.

They are yours for the asking—or in some cases for a small data-processing fee.

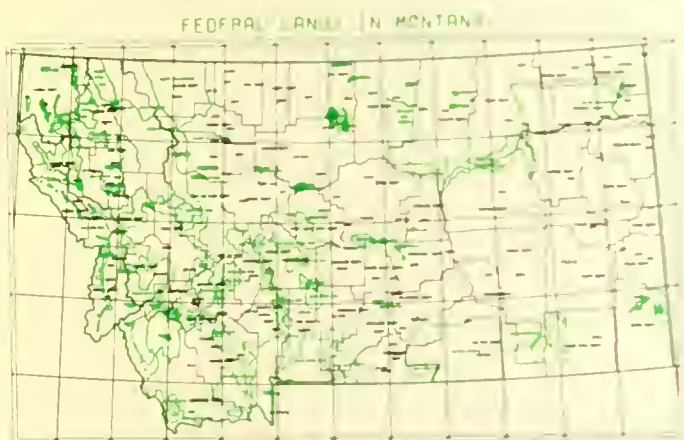
MAPS

Maps are invaluable visual aids for examining and understanding information normally presented in tabular form; but hand-drawn maps are always time-consuming and expensive. With the aid of the computer, though, two kinds of useful maps can be presented quickly and at low cost

Printed Maps

By use of the line-printer, state maps can show any kind of numerical data presented by county, as seen on page 5. The statistics for all counties are divided into quartiles (or other convenient divisions) and county values in each of the 4 quartiles are shown in distinctively shaded patterns. The individual county value—population, birthrate, income, valuation, or whatever—also appears automatically.

Plotter Maps



Another type of computer-drawn map comes from the plotter, which draws lines representing roads, waterways, county or other boundaries, forests, or whatever is desired and for which there are figures in the computer memory. Overlays on transparent sheets enable information of many different factors to be presented and combined on the same map for study and comparison. The computer can change the scale so either the entire state, or a region, a county, or a local area can be studied.

File sources include legal ownership records, existing maps, photos from aerial surveys or high-ranging earth-satellites, and information from water-quality calculations, soil surveys, habitat studies, wildlife surveys, and many others.

Once in the computer memory, the data are never "lost," and are quickly available for use in whatever form—tabular or map—that is needed

LIBRARY

The division provides an unusual research library, stocked with more than 6,000 volumes and documents including publications of the federal government, state departments, local planning agencies and many others, including reference periodicals. What makes the collection especially useful is the way it is indexed. All libraries have card catalogues that give titles and sources, or authors. This library, however, has a considerable part of its holdings also indexed by subject matter, so the user can get a list of references on any subject in which he is interested, by means of a computer print-out.

Among the resources is a regular report known as ACCRA, which compares cost-of-living items in communities throughout the U.S. that take part in the quarterly survey. Some Montana communities are included and indexes of living costs in these cities can be compared with those of other states and the average of states represented in the survey.

The library also maintains such varied fare as a list of associations in the state, information on the Earth Resources Technological Satellite program including a file of photos from both satellites and the Space Stations, and a rather extensive collection of state maps.

STATISTICS & ANALYSIS

Much of the division's information service is based on the maintenance and use of statistical series in computer-readable form. The division was designated to receive and process the U.S. Bureau of Census tapes for the 1970 census of Montana.

It receives from another bureau of the Department of Commerce the Regional Economic Information System data with details on employment and income by county and economic sector. This series includes some of the most up-to-date information available on the state economy, combining data from departments of Labor, Commerce, the Internal Revenue Service, Agriculture, and others. More than 20 files of varied information and of differing size and complexity are included in the "data bank."

USABLE DATA

For many people, the mere availability of masses of information is not enough. They have to be put into a form that is more understandable and useful. Some of the ways in which the division has reduced data to more usable form are these:



Maps, such as this line-printer map convert statistics into county form by quartile.

- **Manufacturer's Directory**—listing all Montana manufacturers according to their location, principal products, industrial classification, and name, arranged alphabetically.
- **County Profiles**—a collection of 40-plus tables for each county, giving pertinent information from a variety of census and other sources.
- **Housing Profiles**—summarizing the information for each Montana city and town applicable to those dealing with the problems of housing.
- **Statutory Information Retrieval**—a method of searching the entire Montana legal code for all laws, or parts of them, dealing with a particular subject, or using a certain word or phrase. The computer can be programmed to yield either a list of references to the law, or print out the actual wording of the quotation.
- **Economic and Social Studies**—impacts of existing or potential firms or developments on the economies of the surrounding area or the state; a report on the "state of the economy"; projections of population and other indicators, based assumptions concerning migration and economic development.
- **Federal Aid Monitor System**—summaries of grants from the federal government to agencies in the state, tabulated annually by source, amount, location, and receiving agency.

TYPICAL ACTIVITIES

Socio-Economic Information

- * Census Summary Tape Processing
- * Population Estimates, Projections
- * Migration Study
- * County Profiles
- * Housing Information System
- * Census of Governments Study
- * Library Reference Service
- * Documents Retrieval System

Economic Studies

- * Economic Impact Studies
- * State of the Economy Study
- * REIS Tape Processing
- * Economic Base Studies

Land & Natural Resources

- * State Lands Data System
- * Groundwater Quality System
- * Surface Water System
- * Geo-Data System Design
- * Rosebud County Land Use Project
- * Recreation Facilities Inventory

Computer-Based Services

- * Statutory Information Retrieval
- * Federal Aid Monitor System
- * Manufacturers Directory
- * Airport Data System
- * Pilots Data System
- * Transportation Data System
- * Fish & Game Activity Reporting
- * Indian Talent Bank

DETAILED INFORMATION

Additional information on any of the items mentioned in this brochure, as well as others, is available—frequently in handout form—by contacting:

Research & Information Systems Division
Department of Community Affairs
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601
or call: (406) 449-2896